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# CANCER FACTS

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National Cancer Institute • National Institutes of Health

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## Cancer Fund-Raising Organizations

Numerous private cancer fund-raising organizations operate locally and nationally in the United States. None of these are affiliated with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which is the Federal Government's agency for cancer research.

As a Federal agency, NCI receives most of its operating budget through congressional appropriations. NCI may also accept contributions for cancer research. However, it does not solicit funds nor does it conduct campaigns to raise funds.

Because NCI is a research agency, it is not in a position to comment on the fund-raising practices or programs of other cancer organizations. However, the following questions provide a guide that potential contributors can use to evaluate the operations of a fund-raising organization:

- Is the organization willing to make public its budget and a complete annual report, including an audit by an independent certified public accountant?
- Are the group's fund-raising and administrative costs reasonable?
- Does the organization use ethical and economical fund-raising methods?
- Is the management of the organization made public?
- Is the information it distributes misleading, deceptive, or inaccurate?

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance was formed in 2001 by the merger of the National Charities Information Bureau and the Philanthropic Advisory Service of the Council of Better Business Bureaus' Foundation. The BBB Wise Giving Alliance, an affiliate of the Council of



Better Business Bureaus, has established specific standards for charitable solicitation that it uses to evaluate the fund-raising activities of private, nonprofit organizations. These standards address the practices of public disclosure, financial accountability, fund-raising activities and materials, and the governing body of the organization. The Alliance provides free reports on individual organizations that have been evaluated for compliance with these standards. You may obtain this information on the Internet at <http://www.give.org/inquire/index.asp> or contact the Alliance headquarters directly at:

BBB Wise Giving Alliance  
Suite 800  
4200 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22203-1838  
703-276-0100  
Fax: 703-525-8277  
E-mail: [give@cbbb.bbb.org](mailto:give@cbbb.bbb.org)  
Web site: <http://www.give.org>

Local Better Business Bureaus also report on organizations whose fund-raising efforts are local in scope. The address for the office nearest you is available in your local telephone directory.

Information on charitable organizations also can be obtained from:

- The Office of the Attorney General in your state. Most offices have a consumer protection division that investigates complaints from the public lodged against companies and other organizations. Contact information is located in the blue Government pages of your local telephone directory.
- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) offers a publication called *Charitable Donation\$: Give or Take*, which has information about making donations to organizations and tells whom to contact if you have questions or complaints. This publication is available at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/tmarkg/charity.htm> on the Internet, or through the FTC's toll-free line listed below. The FTC also handles complaints from the public about organizations. To file a complaint, contact the FTC at:

Consumer Response Center  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.  
Washington, DC 20580  
1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)  
TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing callers): 202-326-2502  
Web site: <http://www.ftc.gov>

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### **Sources of National Cancer Institute Information**

#### **Cancer Information Service**

Toll-free: 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)  
TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing callers): 1-800-332-8615

#### **NCI Online**

##### ***Internet***

Use <http://cancer.gov> to reach NCI's Web site.

##### ***CancerMail Service***

To obtain a contents list, send e-mail to [cancermail@cips.nci.nih.gov](mailto:cancermail@cips.nci.nih.gov) with the word "help" in the body of the message.

#### **CancerFax® fax on demand service**

Dial 1-800-624-2511 or 301-402-5874 and follow the voice-prompt instructions.

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